




Sully Spotlight

Heroes Live Forever
Badge 1417  Badge 2806

February 2009

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A Fairfax County,
Va., publication



Events of Interest

**March 5- Community
Drug Forum -VA Run
Community Center (P.9)**

**March 11- SALT Meeting
(P.11)**

**March 17- CAC Meeting
(P. 6)**

Into the New Year

MPO W. M. Brock

Well, here we are established in 2009. Hopefully, everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. This time of year means different things for each of us. For some, it's the New Year's resolution that you made. Others will reflect back throughout the past year, trying to expand upon successes gained and trying to limit failures or short comings that were experienced. After all, we should take note of the past and try not to repeat our mistakes.

Either way you proceed, remember not to set yourself up for failure. Have a specific goal in mind, remember to set yourself up for success. Start small and work to grandeur.

It seems that we all focus on losing weight, spending more time with our family and loved ones, quitting smoking, getting out of debt, etc. These are all fine, but we also need to focus on our personal safety.

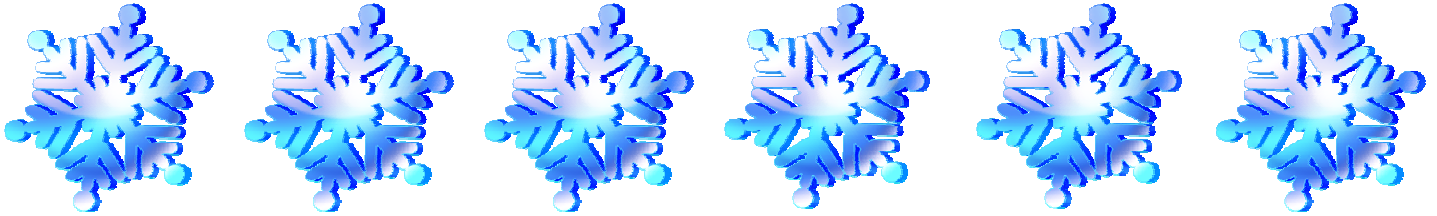
This could be as simple as always wearing your seatbelt, reducing your speed in the car, locking the door to your house when you are away or in the yard, not leaving the garage door open or always locking your vehicle. These are just a few things you can try. They are very simple in nature, but could be the difference between you being safe and protected or becoming a victim.

If you did at least one of these things on a regular basis, it would become second nature in no time. Then you can start practicing another one. Remember, most crimes occur because the opportunity to commit the crime exists. Thus, if there is no opportunity a crime should not take place.

The Crime Prevention section at the Sully District Police Station would be glad to address any of your crime prevention needs. This could be a personal safety lecture for your workers or civic group, a home or business security survey or possibly assisting in establishing a Neighborhood Watch for your community. Let us know what we can do to assist you in making 2009 a safe and crime-free year.

To Drive or Not to Drive...

By: MPO W. M. Brock



Traditionally, we do not have harsh winters in Virginia. There are a few snow storms or showers that come through and take their toll, but for the most part, we are fairly lucky. This is not always the case, though. It seems that we often get freezing rain and sleet mixed with our snow.

Both present unique situations, but of the two...give me snow! At least in snow, you have some control of your vehicle. On ice, you are at the mercy of physics. I remember one cold and icy winter night many years ago, I was dealing with a multiple vehicle crash on a winding road in the McLean area. At the bottom of a hill, I had 8 vehicles pointed in every direction. Some had collided with other vehicles, trees and guardrails.

While surveying the situation, I recall a vehicle approaching from behind me. As I stared in my rearview mirror, I began to brace for impact. I observed the vehicle veer sharply to the left and disappear in a ditch. Whew...that was a close call! No one was injured, but there was plenty of property damage.

While waiting for a tow truck to start winching the vehicles up the hill, I recall speaking with a driver from one of the stranded vehicles. He remarked that he did not understand what happened. After all, he had a four-wheel drive vehicle. I tried to explain the limitations of a four-wheel drive vehicle to this gentleman to no avail. Perhaps he was a visual sort of person? Getting his attention, I took my boot and brushed aside a thin layer of snow. This exposed a packed layer of ice coating the road.

I then explained that the difference between a standard two-wheel drive vehicle, as opposed to a four-wheel drive vehicle on ice was a difference of two wheels versus four wheels spinning at the same time. I really do not think he ever got the big picture, but I did try to educate him.

You should learn and know the limitations of your vehicle in any given driving situation. A traditional rear-wheel drive vehicle is probably not your best option on snow or ice, unless you are using tire chains. Front-wheel or four-wheel drive vehicles fare better in these conditions, but they are not infallible.

Along with your vehicle's limitations, know your own limitations! If you do not feel comfortable going with the flow of traffic in ice or snow, it would be best if you parked your vehicle and waited for driving conditions to improve. Another solution would be to stay at home until conditions improve. The same goes for the NASCAR driver's out there. If you must pass everyone, you run a high risk of losing control of your vehicle. This is due to the fact that it was being operated in a manner too fast for roadway conditions. Keep in mind that the posted speed limit may not be the best speed in all weather conditions.

The bottom line is to use common sense. If you can stay off the roadways during winter storms, it is probably best that you do. If you must drive, please allow extra time for you to make it to your destination. In this situation, sure and steady will get you where you need to go.

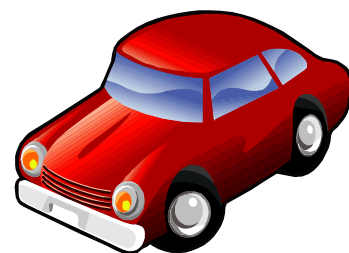
Winter Driving Tips

By MPO W. M. Brock

The best thing to do on a snowy or icy winter day is to throw an extra log on the fire and watch a good movie or perhaps catch up on some reading. Staying off the roadway allows the plows and salt trucks to do what is needed to make them passable once again.

If you must go out, there are some things that you can do to make your trip as safe as possible. This starts by having already winterized your vehicle:

- ☞ Have your breaks, belts, hoses and battery checked before cold weather sets in.
- ☞ Make sure your tires are inflated according to manufacturer recommendations.
- ☞ Consider using a dry gas additive that will prevent any water or condensation in the gas lines from freezing.
- ☞ Make sure you have fresh antifreeze in your radiator.
- ☞ Make sure all running, head and tail lights work.
- ☞ Make sure your lights are clean and not obscured by dirt or snow.
- ☞ Top off your windshield washer fluid.



While driving:

- ☞ Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you (more than normal).
- ☞ Turn on your headlights to be seen.
- ☞ Don't use cruise control.
- ☞ Keep in mind that bridges will freeze over before the actual roadway does.
- ☞ Avoid slamming on the brakes. Pump them to keep from sliding.

Items you should consider carrying in your vehicle:

- ☞ Cat litter (used to gain traction if you get stuck)
- ☞ Ice scraper
- ☞ Shovel
- ☞ Flashlight
- ☞ Flares or reflective triangles
- ☞ Blanket
- ☞ First aid kit





Announcements

Citizens Police Academy Accepting Applications

The police department is accepting applications for its upcoming Citizens Police Academy, held Thursday evenings March 12 through May 16. The academy offers a unique glimpse behind the badge. Classes are a combination of lecture and hands-on activities. Topics include: SWAT and special operations, gangs, 9-1-1 communications, patrol, crime prevention, crime scene, identity theft and a tour of the Adult Detention Center. The program is free; for more information and an application form, e-mail CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-280-0713 (also for reasonable ADA accommodations).

RECENT CRIME TRENDS

- ☞ GPS thefts continue to rise. If you leave a GPS unit on your dash or mounted to your windshield in an unattended vehicle, you are asking for trouble. Please remove all GPS units and other items of value from your vehicle. **Keep your vehicle locked at all times!**
- ☞ Theft of wheels from parked vehicles.
- ☞ Theft of copper from construction sites.
- ☞ Theft of catalytic converters from parked vehicles.

Remember that theft is often a crime of opportunity. Let us strive to prevent this opportunity. Report suspicious activity to the police.

CRIME PREVENTION TIDBITS

- ☞ Do not leave your vehicle unattended while it is idling. I realize that the mornings are cold and no one likes a cold vehicle, but this provides an excellent opportunity for a car thief to exploit. If you must warm your vehicle up, explore the possibility of having a remote starter installed. With a remote starter, the vehicle will shut down if someone attempts to move it, without the key.
- ☞ I will say it again...Lock your vehicle and remove all valuables!!!
- ☞ Shred all documents containing personal information. Never throw these items in the trash intact. A cross cut shredder is the best to use.

A CLEAN SLATE

By: MPO W. M. Brock

While this is not a crime prevention issue, I am sure it is something that you have faced or may face in the future. What should be done when you come across bodily fluids on the floor? This includes blood, vomit, urine or fecal matter. Many years ago, we would have thrown some water on the spill and went about our way. In today's times, we need to assume that these fluids are contaminated with bloodborne pathogens or other germs. In order to properly disinfect the area of the spill, a cleaning agent must be used.

One of the most commonly used and least expensive chemicals for disinfecting purposes is a mixture of household bleach and water. To properly mix this solution use one part bleach to nine parts water. It is recommended that this be done just before use, as the solution loses its strength fairly quickly.

Here is how a clean up should be done, using bleach solution:

- ☞ Cordon off the area of the spill to prevent anyone from making contact with it.
- ☞ Prior to touching anything, put on disposable latex gloves.
- ☞ Wipe up spill with a paper towel or other disposable absorbent material.
- ☞ Apply bleach solution to the contaminated area.
- ☞ Allow the bleach solution to remain on the contaminated area for at least 20 minutes.
- ☞ After 20 minutes, wipe up all of the bleach solution.
- ☞ Dispose of materials in a double-bagged garbage bag.
- ☞ Discard latex gloves in the same garbage bag.
- ☞ Secure garbage bags and place in an approved trash receptacle.
- ☞ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.
- ☞ Do not mix bleach with any other cleaning product!



Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for your child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians? **Next available dates:** February 26, 2009 **Time:** 5:00 PM-8:30 PM

March 5, 2009 5:00 PM-8:30 PM

March 12, 2009 5:00 PM-8:30 PM

March 19, 2009 5:00 PM-8:30 PM



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

CAC Corner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) met on February 17, 2009 at the Sully District Station. Items discussed were gang activity in Fairfax County, the FY2010 Budget and possible cuts to be made in police services, Teddies for Tots campaign and introduction of the new SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) coordinator, Carol Burton. The Officer of the Quarter results were announced: 1st Place PFC Polowy, 2nd Place APO Gonzalez, 3rd Place PFC Tilden & PFC Fried. Congratulations to each of them!

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 17, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting place will be the Sully District Police Station. Please come and join us!



Traffic Trivia

By PFC P. B. Katinsky



Well, winter is definitely here and due to the recent snowfall I thought that we would focus on snow emergency routes this month. We don't get much snowfall in our area but when we do, it tends to create havoc on our roadways. State law gives the governing body of any county, city, or town the ability to regulate the operation of vehicles on its highways in the event of snow, sleet, hail, freezing rain, ice, water, flood, high wind, storm or the threat thereof. Yes, you read correctly not only because of snow but the other conditions as well. Fairfax County has, by ordinance, adopted these laws into county code sections (sections 82-5-2, 82-5-3, 82-5-4, & 82-5-5).

The laws prohibit parking or impeding traffic on highways or streets designated as emergency snow routes during snow, sleet etc. They also authorize the police to tow the vehicles, at the owners' expense, and issue a citation for the offense.

Believe it or not, the Chief of Police is also authorized to designate certain highways or portions thereof within the County as play areas for sledding and similar recreational activities!

The best advice we can give during times of bad weather is: Do not go out unless you absolutely have to. If you have to drive in these situations, please be aware of the snow emergency routes and be sure that your vehicle can safely make it through. If not, you may find yourself with a pricey tow bill and possibly a citation as well.

46.2-1302. Regulation of operation of vehicles in snow, sleet, etc.; designation of play areas; penalties.

The governing body of any county, city, or town may by ordinance regulate the operation of vehicles on the highways in such county, city, or town in the event of snow, sleet, hail, freezing rain, ice, water, flood, high wind, storm or the threat thereof. In addition to the general powers granted by this section, and any other provisions of this title notwithstanding, any such ordinance may:

- 1. Prohibit vehicles from parking or operating on designated highways;*
- 2. Authorize the designation and posting of highways as snow routes and prohibit any person to obstruct or impede traffic on a highway designated and posted as a snow route through his failure to have the vehicle operated by him equipped with snow tires or chains;*
- 3. Prohibit the abandoning of vehicles on designated highways;*
- 4. Authorize the removal of vehicles that are stalled, stuck, parked, or abandoned on designated highways;*
- 5. Authorize the storing of removed vehicles and the imposition of reasonable charges for removal and storage;*
- 6. Authorize the designation of certain highways, or portions thereof, as play areas for sledding and similar recreational activities. No city or town shall be liable in any civil action or proceeding for damages resulting from any injury to the person or property of any person caused by an act or omission constituting simple or ordinary negligence on the part of any officer or agent of any such city or town in the designation or operation of any such play area. Every such city or town may be liable in damages for the gross or wanton negligence of any of its officers or agents in the operation of any such play area;*
- 7. Authorize and regulate the operation of snowmobiles on or across streets and highways during periods of snow or ice or at the direction of any law-enforcement officer during an emergency;*
- 8. Set fines for violations. Such fines may be in place of or in addition to the removal and storage of the vehicle and charges therefore, but no such fine shall exceed fifty dollars for each such offense.*

(1962, c. 431, § 46.1-180.2; 1980, c. 37; 1989, c. 727; 1997, c. 47.)

Section 82-5-2 Snow emergency routes; parking or impeding traffic on snow routes during snow. 89

89. As to snow emergency routes, see §82-5-3

In the event of snow, sleet, hail, freezing rain, ice, water, flood, high wind or storm or the threat thereof, it shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle on any highway or street hereinafter designated as a snow emergency route or to obstruct or impede traffic on any such highway or street by reason of the failure to have any vehicle operated thereon equipped with adequate snow tires or chains. (12-12-62; 1961 Code, § 16-121.1.)

Section 82-5-3. Snow emergency routes designated; posting of signs.

Snow emergency routes are those highways or streets designated as snow emergency routes by Appendix K of the Fairfax County Code. All snow emergency routes shall be posted with appropriate signs indicating their designation as snow emergency routes. Such signs shall be placed not more than five thousand feet apart in either direction. (12-12-62; 4-12-67; 1-10-68; 1961 Code, § 16-121.2; 13-78-82; 3-97-82.)

Section 82-5-4. Police Department to remove parked vehicles on snow routes; fines.

(a) In the event of snow, sleet, hail, freezing rain, ice, water, flood, high wind or storm or the threat thereof the County Police Department is hereby authorized to remove or cause to be removed any vehicle that is stalled, stuck, parked or abandoned on or along any highway or street designated as a snow emergency route. The owner or operator of any such vehicle shall be required to pay, in addition to any fine, the reasonable charges for such removal or storage.

(b) Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this Section or Section 82-5-2 shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). (12-12-62; 1961 Code, § 16-121.3.)

Section 82-5-5. Designation of certain highways as play areas.

The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to designate certain highways or portions thereof within the County as play areas for sledding and similar recreational activities. Before making such designation the Chief of Police shall obtain the written approval of all property owners or tenants whose sole access is from or through the proposed portion of the highway to be closed for sledding or similar recreational activities. The Chief of Police shall cause appropriate barricades to be erected and notice posted on such designation within the area and shall further notify the resident engineer of the State Department of Highways for the County. The Chief of Police shall also notify the resident engineer when the designation of the highways is terminated. No primary highway or portion thereof shall be so designated by the Chief of Police. (2-24-65; 1961 Code, § 16-121.4.)



Drugs & Alcohol: Are *Your* Teens Using?

**LEARN WHAT'S NEW; SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS;
HOW TO IDENTIFY WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR
CLASSROOM, HOME & COMMUNITY;
WHAT YOU CAN DO; RESOURCES FOR
TEACHERS**



SEE "REAL DRUGS"

- ☞ What is a Gravity Bong?
- ☞ When is a magic marker not a magic marker?
- ☞ What's in your water bottle?

How many of these teens could be using DRUGS AND ALCOHOL???



***MEET A FAIRFAX COUNTY
NARCOTICS OFFICER &
STUDENT ASSISTANCE
COUNSELORS FROM
CHANTILLY, CENTREVILLE
AND WESTFIELD HIGH
SCHOOL
STAY FOR THE QUESTION &
ANSWER SESSION***

Contact person:

**Leslie Churn-703-488-6308. Leslie
Roberts-703-802-5683**



This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-246-7562. TTY 703-204-2264.





Support the Fairfax County Police Department CANTEEN



Save your caps and flaps!

The Citizens Police Academy alumni are collecting Coke bottle caps and 12-pack flaps for the FCPD Canteen. The Canteen provides needed refreshments to officers during critical incidents. Reward points from caps and flaps will be redeemed for free refreshments from Coke. You can drop off any caps and flaps that are collected at the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Thanks for your support!

*Sponsored by the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy
Alumni Association*



Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone 703-814-7000
Fax 703-814-7013

File a Report online
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs

Virginia Amber Alert
<http://www.vaamberalert.com>

**Aggressive Driving—
Report Online at**
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm



PHONE NUMBERS

**Fairfax County Crime
Solvers :**
1-866-411-TIPS

**Fairfax County Police
Non-Emergency:**
703-691-2131

**Sully District Crime
Prevention Office:**
703-814-7018
Or
703-814-7048

**Child Car Seat
Installation:**
Sully District Station
703-814-7000 x 5140

**Citizen Reporting System
(to file reports only)**
703-691-2131



Business Security Surveys

This is just a reminder: The Fairfax County Police Department, in addition to Home Security Inspections, does Business Security Surveys free of charge. Here is a brief description of this service:

A qualified, trained Fairfax County Police officer or auxiliary officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your business with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your business from burglary also will be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your business' security. These recommendations will be provided in writing to allow you to review and implement them at your own pace.

Contact either Crime Prevention Officer at the Sully District Station to arrange your free inspection.



You are invited to join the Fairfax County Police Department's new Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) organization. The Sully District Station has formed a small group of interested and motivated individuals as a core for the district's SALT Council. SALT Councils act as an advisory group from their specific geographical regions. All of the SALT Councils then come together to form the Triad for the entire county.

The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors, increase awareness of scams and frauds targeting seniors, strengthen communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and educate seniors on local and state resources that are available in their communities.

To make this program work, we need more members. Please step up and let your voice be heard. Participants play an important role in collaborating with the public safety community. Volunteer today! We really need your support to keep this program going. Our next meeting will be held at the Sully District Police Station on March 11, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

For more information and to learn how to get involved call MPO W. M. Brock at 703-814-7048 or PFC P. B. Katinsky at 703-814-7018. You can also e-mail us at wbroc1@fairfaxcounty.gov or pkatin@fairfaxcounty.gov

This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-246-7562. TTY 703-204-2264. Allow seven working days for preparation of the material.

Newsletter compiled by MPO W. M. Brock